

and stole some valuable property. That has been the situation of Christian America for some months past, and possibly also of some communities and some churches. This loud and gorgeous procession of war has absorbed our attention to such an extent as to give satan an admirable opportunity to make inroads at unguarded points. See for example if drunkenness, uncleanness, Sabbath breaking and other ungodliness has not been on the increase. Watch that back door. Re-commence a more vigorous warfare against public evils. Reassert a more uncompromising attitude toward wickedness. Let the prancing procession with its banners and its shouting go by. Turn thou to the unsentimented breach where an enemy and a thief seeks entrance.

#### An Appreciated Gift

Last week a Christian gentleman of this town enclosed us a check for the sum of one hundred dollars, a donation to the college fund to be appropriated as in our judgment may seem best. The donor is a member of another than our communion, but his heart is with and in all educational and moral movements. As an appreciation of our efforts to make Ashland college the educational center of the Brethren church, he has thus given us his sympathies and services in a very practical way. The gift is thoroughly appreciated, and in behalf of the school and in behalf of the entire brotherhood, we extend to the donor our thanks, praying God's blessing both upon the gift and its giver.

#### The Opening of the Schools

Everywhere the schools are opening, or have just opened. In public schools, academies, seminaries, colleges, universities, professional schools, night schools, commercial colleges, mechanical institutes, art schools, a vast army of children and youths are marshalling under an army of teachers. What a tremendous activity it is, and how responsible. What conscientiousness, what cherishing of high ideals, what devotion to duty is required of the teachers. How far reaching is the personal influence which they exert upon the susceptible minds of the young. In their hands are the destinies of the nation. They have the making or unmaking of the mightiest people upon earth, yea the making or unmaking of our last and best civilization. Let not one of them think that because there are a great multitude of teachers, his own unfaithfulness will not count in the result. It will count to such an extent that God, and the angels, and the eternities will take note of it. Nor is the responsibility of the teacher limited within the strict bounds of his profession. He must see to the moral influence which is at work in his school. There is no other field which satan is so anxious to exploit. Many a bright boy has been ruined for life by the

evil infection of a common school. In nearly every one some filthy scoundrel seeks victims among the innocent and unsuspecting. Guard sacredly your precious charges, O ye who rule in the nurseries of futurity.

#### September Report

The report of the secretary of the National Mission Board for the month of September appears in this issue. It is not very encouraging. It is easily seen that unless we join hands and hearts in support of the Board the work must be abandoned. This should not be so. The Conference endorsed the plan of the Board to keep these missions open and promised to give them support. We cannot afford to close them. Shall it be said of us that we commenced to build and had not the wherewith to finish? God has richly blessed us. Not only has he given us salvation and the blessed privileges which accompany it, but he has given us abundantly of the material things of life, farms and houses and land and stocks, wheat and corn and a thousand other things above what we need for our comfort. Let us be grateful for these things, and show our gratitude by devoting at least a part of them to the spread of the kingdom of God.

#### A Great Victory

The temperance people all over this land have reasons to be grateful and to take courage over the great victory for prohibition in the Canadian provinces. All the provinces except Quebec have given large majorities against the rumshops, and even French Catholic Quebec could not overcome the votes piled up against the traffic. As it now stands the entire Dominion goes for prohibition by a majority of more than 20,000. What a lesson is that for the United States. We lead in civilization, but in the work of the greatest reform movement of the nineteenth century Canada has stolen a march on us. The people of that country know what they are doing. They have time to think, and do think, think right when they go to the polls. It is a grand triumph for the cause of temperance, and we rejoice with our neighbors in the glorious victory they have won. To that it must come; in the nature of things it can not be otherwise. It is right against wrong; righteousness against iniquity; life against death; Christ against the devil, and victory is sure.

#### The Theory of Instruction

"Line upon line, line upon line, precept upon precept, precept upon precept, here a little, there a little." This is the method employed by the divine teacher, and recommended to all instructors. We do not stop to discuss the philosophy of it, except so far as to say that it is the *persistence* of inculcation which produces permanent growth either

of mind or character, and sets in motion the hidden dynamics of action. Let us apply the principle to the heavy work of the church. We want our people to inaugurate mission work and carry it on with steady perseverance and increasing energy. There is only one way to do it; stir up the pastors. When pastors fully recognize the duty of evangelization which the gospel lays upon the church, they will instruct their people; and when by the continual application of gospel teaching and gospel authority the conscience of the people is aroused, *they* will put power in the machinery of missions, and the work will go on. A missionless church bespeaks an indifferent or somnolent pastorate. Rouse. Wake. Teach. Have a conscience of your own on the subject of missions, the supreme duty of the church, and create a lively conscience on the same subject in the people to whom you minister. Much has been said about the "justification for our separate organization." We know of but one, and that is soul saving. If God is saving souls through the instrumentality of the Brethren church, that is enough justification for its existence. But indifference on the subject of soul saving, either as it relates to your own locality or the world at large, nullifies this justification, and renders all other supposed justifications worthless. Against this indifference, whether it be in your own heart or in your people, array the word of God. New Testament precept and New Testament example on the subject of evangelism would furnish you texts for a whole year's preaching. It is as inexhaustible as the gospel, for *it is* the gospel, in concrete. Persistently put it upon the conscience of the church, and see what transformation it will work.

#### Accommodating

We are not certain that some of the methods employed in revival meetings are either sensible, scriptural or effective. It is wonderful to witness the manipulation of an assemblage by a skillful revivalist. Behold the jumpings up and the sittings down. See how the sinners are separated from the saints. It is the judgment day in miniature. Now the sheep are all bending their heads over, while the goats sit bolt upright looking very uncomfortable. Again the latter are trapped into standing alone, while the good people twisting their heads around to see who and how many they are. To vary the performance alert young people distribute the confidential cards so that sinners who are too bashful and retiring to endure the publicity of open confession may sneak in by the back door of the printed card. Every method is exhausted to surprise the hesitating and reluctant sinner into a profession of religion. He is coaxed, he is cajoled, he is lured into situations where retreat is difficult if not impossible, until finally his name goes to swell